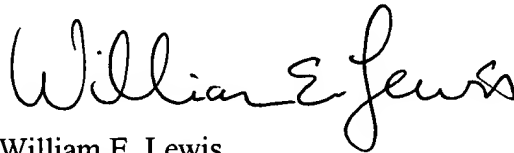


REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 1-35 without prejudice and presented new claims 36-56 for consideration during examination of this continuation application. It is to be understood that new claims 36-56, presented above, relate to the subject matter of the non-elected claims of Group I of the pending parent application Serial No. 09/150,403, including amendments made in an Amendment dated December 9, 1999 (and prior to the Restriction Requirement dated February 28, 2000). It is respectfully asserted that the application, along with the newly presented claims, is in proper condition for allowance. As such, early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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